

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is cancelled and claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-19 under the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Office Action asserts that the instant specification does not provide enablement for the recitation in the instant claims that "the ink transmitting layer is crosslinked to a greater extent than the ink absorbing layer" (claim 1). In particular, the Office Action asserts that the instant specification discloses, at P7/L24, that the extent of crosslinking in the ink absorbing layer should not be too high, but fails to provide any disclosure with respect to the extent of crosslinking in the ink absorbing layer relative to the extent of crosslinking in the ink transmitting layer. Notwithstanding these assertions, the instant specification provides adequate enablement for the pending claims.

The instant specification indicates that "it is preferable for the ink absorbing layer 2 to be crosslinked at least in the region on the ink transmitting layer," to achieve the benefit of preventing swelling when water is introduced to the recording material. P6/L17-25. However, when a crosslinking agent is introduced to effect crosslinking, such agent should be introduced in a sufficiently small quantity to prevent "the absorbing ability of the ink absorbing layer 2 from falling." P5/L17-21. This is because "if the extent of the crosslinking of the ink absorbing layer is too high, then the ink absorbing ability will fall." P7/L24-P8/L1.

It is clear from these excerpts that the instant specification is describing an "extent of crosslinking" in the ink absorbing layer that is less than complete crosslinking. This is

because complete crosslinking would result in a reduction of absorbing ability in the absorbing layer, rendering that layer unfit for its intended purpose. With respect to the ink transmitting layer, however, the instant specification discloses applying a solution to form the ink transmitting including a crosslinking agent and allowing that that solution to stand "until the crosslinking is completely finished." P7/L10-18 (emphasis added). It is plain from the contrasting descriptions in the instant specification of how the respective ink transmitting and ink absorbing layers are formed, that the extent of crosslinking in the ink transmitting layer is greater than the extent of crosslinking in the ink absorbing layer ("less than complete" crosslinking is of lesser extent than "completely finished" crosslinking).

As the instant specification describes that the ink absorbing layer is crosslinked to a lesser extent than the ink transmitting layer and, moreover, explains how to achieve such a gradient in crosslinked-ness (see P7/L9-23), the disclosure provides more than adequate enablement for the pending claims. That is, one of ordinary skill in the art could make and use the claimed invention without undue experimentation. See, e.g., In re Wands, 858 F.2d 731, 737 (Fed. Cir. 1988); MPEP 2164.

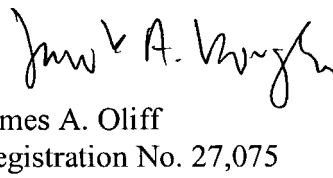
For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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